

Newington Parks and Recreation
Board of Directors
Tuesday, April 17, 2012
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

II. Roll Call

Board: Eileen Francolino, Robert Fresen, Jen Win-Johnson, Richard Khentigan, Ed Marchion, Jim Marocchini, Jeff Perillo, Don Woods
Board Members Absent: Bill DeBlasio, Mary Udice, Kathy Zolad
Staff: Superintendent Bruce Till
Town Liason: None

III. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

IV. Approval of the Minutes of Board Meeting on February 21, 2012

Richard Khentigan made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2012 meeting. Jeff Perillo seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0. Don Woods abstained.

V. Correspondence/Communications/ Reports

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts. Bruce Till suggested that the board table questions regarding the Superintendent's report until old business was reviewed.

VI. Old Business

Community Center Proposals

Monies have been set aside to study possible future locations for the Parks and Recreation Department. Bruce Till stressed the importance of a needs assessment study before a recommendation to the building committee is made. Both on site renovations and stand-alone possibilities are being considered. Bruce Till reviewed possibilities of stand alone buildings on adjacent properties to the town hall. This property is a suggested site because it would encompass not only Department relocation but also include renovations to Mill Pond Pool and bathhouse, items currently in need of repair. Bruce Till reminded the commission that it is important to consider where programs would be housed in the event that the current location is renovated. This process would be expected to last a year to a year and a half. The Town manager is currently reviewing proposed sites and looking at options. Plans are in the works to have RFP and RFQ sent to architects who will present designs. The building committee and the council will review ideas. Input from the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as the general public will also be considered. Discussion centered on the ramifications of the possible demolition of the Mortenson Community Center. Jen Win-Johnson asked Bruce Till what other towns do in this situation. Bruce Till

reiterated the importance of a needs assessment. Components should include review of such items as relocation of the teen center, an aerobics room, inclusion of a dance floor for classes, and the like. Don Woods questions when public participation might begin. Bruce Till suggested that a decision must be made regarding the choice between a free standing building or renovation. Once this is done, public suggestions could be examined. This would most likely occur after the RFP, RFQ process.

Pay As You Go C.I.P. 2012-2013

After budget deliberations, the CIP account stands as \$150,000. Eagle Park is next on the renovation list. The Pay As You Go C.I.P. Proposal includes a list of various projects in random order. Discussion of vandalism at various parks brought out the need for neighborhood policing. Some vandalism at Beacon Park was addressed by lowering the site line to bring better visibility. Jen Win-Johnson asked about the possibility of camera in the parks. Cost is prohibitive.

Budget 2012-2013

Despite positive feedback regarding department operations, the Special Revenue fund was cut by \$25,000 during budget deliberations. This is likely to lead to an increase in fees. Don Woods reminded the Board that very detailed reports show the profitability of all programs. Software is expected within the next six months that will allow the department to more closely examine and track program expenses.

Mill Pond Park Playscape Poured in Place

Poured in place material is breaking up sooner than expected. It did not last as long as planned. The expected cause is improper drainage and the gravel base. Bruce Till met with different manufacturers and architects to address these issues. A new tile product is on the market that could replace the poured in place base but Bruce Till is not convinced that it will hold up under rough New England weather. Further investigation is necessary. Funds are available to do most, if not all of the project. Drainage issues must be addressed and a proper base must be added. These costs are not included in the \$90,000. Golf Tournament money that was earmarked for helping children with special needs may be used to help cover costs. Ed Marchion asked about significance of the cost of the base and drainage. Bruce Till explained that the cost could be lowered if town workers were used to complete portions of the project. The equipment on the playground will stay. Other pieces and improvements might be added as expenses allow. Everything meets code and should last about 10 more years.

Mill Pond Project

The stairs and the bridge are completed. Concrete work will be finished. Paving around the pond will be completed during the summer months.

IV. New Business

Clem Lemire Utility Rates

Councilman Jay Bottalico worked with Bruce Till and CL&P officials to change electric rates at Clem Lemire from schedule 30 to schedule 29. This resulted in savings to the town. Bruce Till suggested that the Board reexamine charges to resident youth groups. Don Woods and Jeff Perillo were in agreement with a of \$25 per hour.

Jeff Perillo made a motion that residents who use the lights on the synthetic field be charged \$25 per hour. Ed Marchion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Football, soccer, and lacrosse will be billed. Don Woods commented that the new rate was fair to all concerned.

ADA Public Pools

New regulations have been put in place requiring lifts in public pools. Eileen Francolino questioned if the lift used at Mill Pond meets current code. Bruce Till explained that it does not because current code requires that the user operate the controls. Bruce Till suggested that the Board look at purchasing two portable lifts, one for each pool. Eileen Francolin and Jim Marocchini questioned if zero depth pools require a lift. Bruce Till explained that all pools must meet this new code.

Jeff Perillo made a motion that the department purchase 2 portable lifts. Richard Khentigan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Skate Park

The park has been fenced in and enclosed. Some caulking has been completed. Other issues brought forth by CIRMA will be addressed.

5K Run

The department will help with the organization of a 5K run. The race will take place on the Young Farm and John Wallace trails.

Sign/Banner Policy

Poles have been set to allow a banner to hang over Market Square. The department will manage this process in accordance with set guidelines. Banners will hang for 2 weeks. Don Woods wondered there were size restrictions. Bruce Till explained that these were set to ensure visibility.

Additional Concerns

Graffiti at the Skate Park

Don Woods brought this issue to the attention of the Board. A suggestion was made that press coverage be used to remind residents why the park was painted purple in an effort to encourage better behavior. Bruce Till reminded the board that

coverage is difficult to come by. Caulking at the skate part was not successful because the park was used before it was dry.
Churchill Volleyball Net
Needs replacement-Bruce will address this issue.

Don Woods commended parks workers who worked on the gazebo. It looks great and it is clear they went above and beyond to create this new structure.

Don Woods brought an issue to the board regarding cemetery rules. Going forward, rules will be enforced. Items such as plant hangers, stuffed animals, and balloons will not be allowed. Rules are given to each person who purchases a plot at the cemetery. This change is likely to cause some people to become upset but is necessary. It will allow for easier maintenance of the area.

Jeff Perillo asked about the sign policy at Clem Lemire. Not requests have come in yet. Jeff requested written application from Bruce till. Bruce will follow up.

Jeff Perillo made a motion to adjourn at 8:45. Richard Khentigan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Francolino

Extravaganza 2012 Planning Committee
April 17, 2012 Meeting
Minutes

Carnival

Thursday –Saturday

Roughly 15 rides will be set up.

Concessions

Contracts for food vendors are coming in slowly. Primo Sausage from East Hartford has shown some interest serving food on Friday night at the concert.

Pool Party

The library is all set. Steph is looking for Board presence at this event.

Family Field Day

Details are not set. A sponsor would help defray costs of labor. Eileen will look into possibly adding Chili cook-off and a cupcake competition in an effort to attract more people to the park.

Concert

Ticket to Ride will be included in the regular Data Mail flier announcing concert series. The beer garden will be set up with a \$5 cover charge. Concert will be 2 hours. An opening act has yet to be confirmed.

Entertainment

Kenny will handle sound for Saturday. The schedule still has several holes to be filled. Possibilities include Irish step dancers and a return of the beautiful baby contest. Jeff will check with his dad regarding his a capella group performing.

Fireworks

Will set up VIP area.

Will get same show as last year

Golf Tournament

All mailings have been sent.

Down 55 golfers

Down \$2400 in sponsors

CJSA is expected to sponsor.

Phone calls will be placed to those who participated last year and have yet to respond.